

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 16, 2015

The Honorable Dan Ashe
Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Ashe:

Earlier this month, numerous members of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives wrote to you regarding the upcoming listing determination for the northern long-eared bat (NLEB), the related 4(d) proposal, and broader efforts to address white nose syndrome (WNS). These members asked for your responses to a number of concerns and questions by March 13.

Your timely, thorough, and transparent responses should provide greater clarity to the Service's proposals and related activities and will also inform the congressional oversight and appropriations process. Your responses should also aid citizens who wish to provide more fully-informed public comments on the 4(d) proposal. We are confident that responses can be provided quickly, so long as the Service has performed its due diligence with regard to (1) the forthcoming NLEB listing determination, (2) the related 4(d) proposal, and (3) broader efforts to address WNS.

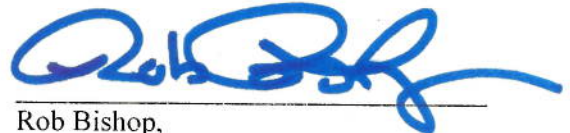
As we have not received your responses by close of business on March 13, we ask that you both extend the comment period for the proposed 4(d) rule and delay the listing determination for the NLEB by at least 60 days.

Again, we urge you to protect the NLEB from population loss associated with WNS, without unduly burdening impacted communities and citizens by driving up costs for farmers, foresters, and families who ultimately will have to bear the burden of any unnecessarily onerous rules, as it is clear that human activities are not a reasonable basis for adding the NLEB to the Endangered and Threatened Species List.

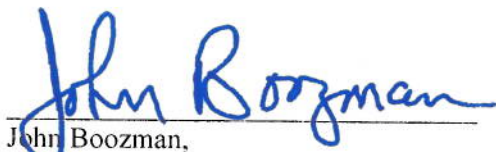
Sincerely,



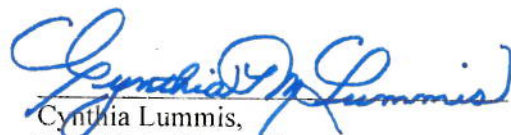
James M. Inhofe,
Chairman,
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works



Rob Bishop,
Chairman,
House Committee on Natural Resources



John Boozman,
U.S. Senator



Cynthia Lummis,
Vice Chair, House Committee on
Natural Resources

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Cotton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being clearly legible.

Tom Cotton,
U.S. Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Vitter". The signature is cursive, with the first name "David" being more prominent than the last name "Vitter".

David Vitter,
U.S. Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Lankford". The signature is highly stylized and cursive, with the first name "James" being the most legible part.

James Lankford,
U.S. Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Crapo". The signature is cursive, with the first name "Mike" being more prominent than the last name "Crapo".

Mike Crapo,
U.S. Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James E. Risch". The signature is cursive, with the first name "James" and the last name "Risch" being clearly legible.

James E. Risch,
U.S. Senator

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Dan Sullivan,
U.S. Senator



Chuck Grassley,
U.S. Senator